Reading and Movies

We do carry a portable library on tour, but you may also be interested in the following books. Be sure to check out the Reading Room of our website at www.experienceplus.com/reading_room.html for additional suggestions and to read reviews.

Guidebooks

We recommend any of the standard, current guidebooks such as Fodor’s, Frommer’s, Lonely Planet, or Rick Steves. The regional Michelin “Green Guides” are personal favorites and probably the best available sources for historical and geographical information. We like the Cadogan Guide series for how they’re written and for fun historic anecdotes. Some of these may be out of print so don’t use them for hotels, or restaurants but are fine as general guides.

For encyclopedic history and art, the “Blue Guide” series of guidebooks are the best. This series began with the famous 19th century German guidebook publisher, Baedeker. Findlay Muirhead, the English-language editor for Baedeker, launched this series when World War I made it politically incorrect to continue to publish a German guidebook. Muirhead came up with the "blue" part of this series to distinguish it from the red-covered Baedeker and its English competitor, Murray’s Handbooks for Travelers (which also had a red cover). To this day, the Blue Guide continues to be almost encyclopedic in its coverage. These guides are available in a number of editions by region or by city.

Literature on Turkey and Turkish History

- The Turks Today: Turkey after Ataturk by Andrew Mango. About contemporary Turkey. Good easy read although some reviewers lamented its lack of dealing with Turkey’s minority issues.
- Turkey, a Short History, by Roderic Davison. A good place to start if you want a relatively quick but solid history of the country.
- The Ottoman Centuries: the Rise and Fall of the Turkish Empire. By Lord Kinross. A comprehensive book about the Ottomans, covering 1300 to 1923 in 622 pages.
- Portrait of a Turkish Family by Irfan Orga. A biography about how life changed from when the Ottomans ruled and then collapsed.
- Snow; My Name is Red; The New Life and others by Orhan Pamuk (2006 Nobel Prize for Literature) currently the most high profiled Turkish author who spent 12 years as a political exile in Germany.
- Ataturk’s life by Lord Kinross. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was an army officer, statesman, the founder of the Republic of Turkey and its first President. Lord Kinross’ book captures the broad scope and thrilling details of the life of this amazing man and the influence he has had on 20th century Turkey.
- Tales From the Expat Harem by Anastasia M. Ashman, Jennifer Eaton Gokmen. Collection of 32 essays from Turkish women whose experiences span the entire country and the last four decades.
• **The Emergence of Modern Turkey: Studies in Middle Eastern History** by Bernard Lewis. Good overview of modern Turkey for readers with some historical knowledge of country. The first half of the book chronicles the social and political events leading to the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of Turkish nationalism. Second half features key intellectual and political figures.

• **Crescent & Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds** by Stephen Kinzer, former New York Times Istanbul bureau chief. Explores the country that sits geographically and culturally between Europe and Asia.

• **Travelers’ Tales Turkey: True Stories** by James Villers, Jeremy Seal, Stephen Kinzer, Nicholas Sh Brady. This collection contains thirty one stories alongside factual details, excerpts from literature on Turkey and tales from the road.

• Poems of Nazim Hikmet by Nazim Hikmet, Randy Blasing (Translator), Mutlu Konuk (Translator). Hikmet was a leading modern Turkish poet who was born at the turn of the 20th century and spent most of his life in and out of prison. Despite this his poems are compassionate and strong.

• **Aegean Turkey (Pergamon to Ephesus)** by George Bean. Almost no other archaeologist of the 1960s knew the Turkish landscape better than Bean. For this book, Bean guides you through history.

• **Lycian Turkey (Fethiye to Antalya)** by George Bean. Published in 1978, this book is a comprehensive guide to the archaeological sites of Lycia.

• **Turkey Beyond the Meander (Bodrum, Marmaris, Fethiye)** by George Bean. Historical accounts of the Carian cities of southwest Anatolia including neighboring Caunus.

• **Turkey's Southern Shore (Finike to Antalya)** by George Bean. A similar guide by renowned Turkish archaeologist.

• **The Most Beautiful Wild Flowers of Turkey** by Erdogan Tekin. This guide was written in both Turkish and English and contains over 1010 flowers and 1370 pictures.

• **Companion Guide to Turkey** by John Freely. 640 pages of information, photographs, and maps.

• **Turkish Reflections: A Biography of a Place** by Mary Lee Settle. A knowledgeable and intimate portrait of modern Turkey by an American novelist.

**Literature on Cycling**

• **The Cyclist's Training Bible** by Joe Friel.

• **Miles from Nowhere** by Barbara Savage. One of the best-written bicycle adventure stories available. *Bicycling Magazine* regularly carries articles on training and technique. Visit your local library on a Sunday afternoon and peruse their collection.

• **Effective Cycling** by John Foresters. Tells you everything you could possibly need to know and more, including safety, maintenance, technique and the physiology of cycling.

**Movies About or Set in Turkey or by Turkish Filmmakers That We Have Enjoyed**

• **Gallipoli** - Based on Alan Moorhead’s book of the same name. This Australian movie made Gallipoli’s battlefields a tourist destination.

• **From Russia with Love** - A James Bond movie, of the old kind that has some great scenes of Istanbul.

• **Topkapi** - A motley group of bumbling thieves steal the emerald dagger from the treasury of Topkapi Palace – some great scenes of Istanbul from the late 1950s.

• **Steam: The Turkish Bath** - An Italian designer travels to Istanbul to sell a traditional Turkish bath left to him by his aunt. He decides to return the bath to the public after falling in love with the city and its people.

• **Harem Suaré** - Towards the end of the Ottoman Empire, an old servant devises a plan to keep the women of the Sultan’s harem distracted.

• **Clouds of May** - A film within a film about the movie director traveling back to Anatolia, his hometown, to make a film with his relatives.

• **Distant** - A Cannes multi-award winning film about two cousins who meet in Istanbul, each affected by the big city in different ways.

• **Climates** - The writer-director of Distant, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, follows up his award winning film with another tale about the fragility and complexity of human relationships.

• **After the Fall** - An animated film about the inability to connect to other people. The film is drawn on index cards and shot outdoors.
• *Head-On* - Bold tale of one boy's conflict with his background, heritage and future. *Innocence*. A look inside an off-beat boarding school for girls.

• *Don't Let Them Shoot the Kite* - When a woman is sent to prison, her children go with her. The film chronicles one woman sentenced for murder who develops a special friendship with a little boy whose mother is also in prison.

• *Three Monkeys by Nuri Bilge Ceylan* - 2009 Cannes Film Festival, Best Director Award